

Life Group Homework

Understanding and Overcoming Temptation

James 1:12-15

Let's Get Started

Let's begin this week with a few famous quotes about temptation:

"I can resist anything but temptation." **Oscar Wilde**

"To go into temptation to find how strong you are is as wise as to go before a mirror, with closed eyes, to find how you look when asleep." **Ivan Panin**

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

The Apostle Paul

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." **The Apostle James**

Group Discussion

What is so tempting about temptation?

Before there was temptation...there was no temptation. Biblically speaking, when was the first temptation, who was tempted, and who or what did the tempting?

Is experiencing temptation a sin? How would you support your answer biblically?

Let's Go Deeper

Oscar Wilde's quote above is sometimes as accurate as it is humorous. But the Apostle James takes the subject of temptation very seriously. So does the Apostle Peter.

Read **1 Peter 1:14-15**. In your own words, what is the strong message to a disciple of Jesus?

According to **James 1:13**, who is NOT responsible for tempting you?

According to **James 1:12**, who is responsible for testing you?

What is the difference between being tempted and being tested?

Name three examples of people who were tested by God—and passed.

1.

2.

3.

Understanding Temptation

Answer the following three questions. **Use scripture to support your answers.**

What is the **SOURCE** of temptation? (Where it comes from)

What is the **FORCE** of temptation? (How it works within you)

What is the **COURSE** of temptation? (Where temptation ultimately leads)

Why does God test His disciples? What is His purpose?

Blame

When God confronted Adam, Adam took no responsibility for the sin of disobeying God's command not to eat of the forbidden tree. Who did he blame?

When God confronted Eve, who did she blame?

When God confronted Satan, who did he blame?

Have you ever blamed someone else for one of your own mistakes?

Read the following statement. Do you agree or disagree? Why? If God is sovereign over all things, he could have chosen to avoid the temptation of Adam and Eve; then we would all still be living in a world without sin.

Read Hebrews 4:15 and consider the following question for discussion. Although Jesus faced the temptation to sin, he was not tempted in the same manner. Why was His struggle different than ours?

Sanctification

There are two sides of your Christian sanctification, which is your journey and quest to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ. One side is your **POSITION** in Christ. What do the following scriptures reveal about the converted disciple's position in Christ?

Ephesians 2:6

2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Peter 1:4

Romans 5:1

The other side of sanctification is your **PROGRESSION** in Christ. What do the following scriptures reveal about the path of the believer's progression towards becoming more like Jesus?

1 Peter 3:18

1 Peter 2:2

Philippians 3:12

Let's Live It Out Together

Temptation Discussion

Have someone in the group read **1 Corinthians 10:13**. God promises that with any temptation, He will provide a way of escape.

If you were discipling a new believer, how would you explain this scripture? What does Paul mean when he says, "*but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape?*"

Stay safe, stay in close proximity to Christ this week, and continue to pray for one another!